

~~~~~ **NEW GRANT PROGRAM** ~~~~~

**JUST ANNOUNCED AND NOW OPEN**

***FY 2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation  
Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)***

The purpose of this program is to support projects that acquire land and water areas for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes, develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities, as well as plan for projects that support special studies to help guide park and recreation investment. All projects must be located in, or serve, jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census as comprising densely settled territory that contains 50,000 or more people. Priority will be given to projects that target neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of park and recreation resources, and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth. The overall goal of this program is to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. citizens through active participation in recreational activities. Outdoor recreation areas and facilities assisted through this program must be open to the general public, and may not be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. Eligible applicants are State lead agencies that have been designated by the State's Governor or by legislation for the purposes of implementing Land Water Conservation Funds in the State. States must have a current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoors Recreation Plan (SCORP) in place to be eligible. State lead agencies may apply on behalf of local governments and Indian Tribal governments.

**Basic Criteria:**

1. Projects submitted must be **acquisition** projects only. (Admin. Rule/State of Illinois).
2. Maximum grant assistance request is \$750,000 and the minimum request is \$250,000.
3. Applicants must be local units of government.
4. Applicant's population must be at least 50,000.
5. Applicants must be named in the urbanized area list by the Census Bureau.
6. Program is a 50/50 match. Other federal funds may not be used as part of match (except HUD and IDOT Recreational Trails Program).
7. Program opens April 1, 2016 and application deadline is April 22, 2016 at 5 p.m..
8. Only two applications will be recommended to the National Park Service for award.  
Each state submits two applications and the National Park Service determines the awards from the entire country based upon the \$15 million available.

9. Applicants must provide a development plan that proves the project will meet the recreational needs of the community. Please note all development proposed for the site being acquired must be initiated within 3 years of closing on the property. Property acquired may not remain undeveloped, that is a violation of the program.
10. Applicants must maintain the park site for public outdoor recreation open space in perpetuity.
11. This is a federally funded grant program for acquisition projects only (no planning or development grants accepted).

**Priorities of the program for evaluation purposes:**

1. Project is in urbanized area.
2. Project serves an economically disadvantaged area.
3. Projects that will directly serve disadvantaged or underserved areas which includes communities that have no existing parks; some parks but not enough to support the population or satisfy recreational demand; condition of existing parks is in very poor condition; high minority; and a high amount of youth.
4. Involve or expand public/private partnerships.
5. Meets the goals of the State of Illinois' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). View at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/pages/scorp.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/pages/scorp.aspx)
6. Applicant's readiness to complete project.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING**

On line application is available at the following web address:  
<https://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/OSLADApplication/securelogin.asp>. Complete all forms, attach all required attachments and mail to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday April 22, 2016 to be eligible.

**Please realize this is the standard application used for the annual OSLAD/LWCF program. All references to the OSLAD program should be disregarded. This program opportunity is only for LWCF-ORLP.**

For the Attachment A-1 Narrative Statement that is part of the application, type in "see attached Narrative Statement document" in the text box under letter A. Do not fill out the rest of the on-line form. For the Narrative Statement you will need to follow the provided outline on page 8 of this document and submit with the rest of your application documents that must be mailed in.

Questions should be directed to the Division of Grant Administration at 217/782-7481. Please leave a message on the Divisions' voice mail system if your call is not answered. You may also email the Division of Grants at [dnr.grants@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.grants@illinois.gov).

## Additional information provided by the National Park Service (NPS):

### **A. Program Description**

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to advise States, local units of government, and federally-recognized Indian Tribes of the availability of funds for grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund's (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program. The purpose of the LWCF ORLP is to provide grants to acquire and/or develop public lands for outdoor recreation purposes consistent with the LWCF, but specifically targeting projects located within or serving jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as urbanized areas, that is, areas with a population of 50,000 or more people and consisting of densely settled territory. Further, specifically targeting projects located in or directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth.

Background on LWCF: The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program was created by the Congress in 1964 to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to present and future generations of U.S. citizens and visitors "such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States...." This is accomplished in part by authorizing and providing grants to States, and through States to local units of government and federally-recognized Indian tribes, for projects that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public through the acquisition of lands and waters for parks and other outdoor recreation areas, as well as through the development of new or renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities.

Acquisition of land may be in fee simple or a lesser interest (e.g., a perpetual easement) as long as public access is provided. On the development side, LWCF assistance is available for a wide range of outdoor recreation uses and the facilities needed to support the use and enjoyment of these areas. This includes things like parks, sports and other playing fields, picnic areas, and water-based recreation facilities such as swimming pools, trails, campgrounds, boating facilities, etc. Certain kinds of support facilities, such as restrooms, may also be eligible. For either project type, to be eligible the project must be located on public land and the project sponsor must possess sufficient legal title and control of the property to be assisted to ensure that it can be managed and maintained for outdoor recreation in perpetuity and otherwise remain compliant with the anti-conversion provisions of the LWCF Act (see 54 USC 200305(f)(3)). Outdoor recreation areas and facilities assisted by the LWCF must be open to the general public and not limited to special groups. Chapter 3 of the [LWCF Manual](#) describes project eligibility requirements in detail.

The LWCF State and Local Assistance program is operated by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with designated lead agencies in each of the 50 States as well as American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Each fiscal year Congress appropriates money from the LWCF for this program, which

traditionally is in turn allocated to the States based on a legislative formula. (A separate announcement – P16AS00015 – is posted on Grants.gov for the formula program.)

To be eligible for LWCF grants, States must prepare and the NPS must approve a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Among other things, SCORPs are used to assess the supply and demand for outdoor recreation resources and set priorities for the use of LWCF funds. A State must maintain an active SCORP at all times, as well as update them at least once every 5 years, although they may do so more frequently.

Background on the LWCF ORLP Program: In P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Congress appropriated a supplemental amount from the LWCF (\$3 million) designated for a new nationally competitive grant program to be developed by the NPS. The NPS created the LWCF ORLP in response. The program operates within the context of the traditional LWCF Program, but focuses on projects that will benefit urban areas.

Similar to the inaugural ORLP competition in FY2014, this competition round will target projects that will create or reinvigorate parks and other outdoor recreation spaces located in Census-delineated urbanized areas. (Note that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and the Virgin Islands do not have any such areas.) Further, the NPS will prioritize the selection of projects that will: directly connect people to outdoor places, particularly in communities that are underserved\* in terms of parks and other outdoor recreation areas and have significant numbers of individuals who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth; engage and empower members of the affected community in the development of the project; involve and expand public-private partnerships, particularly to provide for the leveraging of resources; and rely on a high degree of coordination among the public, multiple levels of government, and the private sector, to improve recreation opportunities for all. In addition to the competition objectives, selected projects must advance goals of or otherwise meet priority recreation needs identified in their State's SCORP.

\* For the purposes of this competition, “underserved communities” should be considered as those with: (1) no existing parks; (2) some parks but not enough to support the size of the population or otherwise satisfy existing recreational demand; or (3) some existing parks (potentially even an adequate number of parks) that are so deteriorated/obsolete or underdeveloped that redevelopment or rehabilitation would have a significant impact in terms of increasing the number of people who could be served and/or increasing the recreational opportunities that could be provided (in a way that is equivalent to new).

All prospective LWCF ORLP grant applicants should be aware that the LWCF Act requires that any park or other outdoor recreation facility that has benefitted from assistance from the LWCF, whether for acquisition or development purposes, and regardless of the amount or extent of assistance, may not be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses (*see* Section 5(f) of P.L. 88-578 or 54 USC 200305(f)(3)). As a condition of the grant, the NPS requires that language be recorded against the deed of the assisted property advising that the property described in the scope of the project agreement, including via a signed and dated project boundary map that shows the extent of the area subject to the requirement made part of that agreement, was acquired with or assisted by Federal funds from the LWCF. Further, that the property must be preserved for outdoor recreation uses in perpetuity and cannot be converted to

other than public outdoor recreation use without the written approval of the Secretary of the Interior. In general, this requirement is applied to the assisted park or other recreation area *as a whole*, unless the NPS agrees to a more limited area. An assisted park may be released from this requirement only with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Approval is contingent upon the conversion being found consistent with the State's SCORP and the project sponsor replacing the area to be converted with a *new* recreation area involving land of at least equal fair market value and reasonably equivalent recreational utility. Before seeking a grant, project sponsors should carefully consider their ability and willingness to comply with this provision of the law. The authority for the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program is 54 U.S.C. 200305. Excerpts of relevant sections of the LWCF Act can be found at [http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/lwcf\\_act.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/lwcf_act.pdf). The authority for the ORLP is P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

The LWCF Grant Assistance Manual, v. 69 (October 1, 2008) establishes the eligibility, procedural, and programmatic requirements for LWCF grants, including ORLP grants. The Manual can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf>. It outlines the criteria and process for eligible states and territories to develop a SCORP, nominate projects to the NPS, and implement grants for selected projects.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

The FY16 ORLP competition will make available up to \$15 million appropriated by Congress for this program in FY15 (\$3 million) and FY16 (\$12 million). The maximum amount of funds that may be requested per proposal is \$750,000. There is also a minimum level of \$250,000. With these limits, the NPS expects anywhere from 20 to 60 projects to receive funding. The NPS anticipates initial selection of projects based on the pre-applications by September 30, 2016, followed by submission of final applications and actual award of grants during the first and second quarters of FY 2017. Timelines for project proposals should assume a grant start date between January 1 and March 31, 2017. The period of performance for LWCF grants is typically from 1 to 3 years; this competition will favor projects that can be completed in shorter timeframes. Projects will be evaluated for their readiness (i.e., will begin within one year of grant award) and likelihood of completion within the stipulated period of performance.

All awards will be given as grants. LWCF ORLP must be implemented in accordance with the [LWCF Manual](#), the LWCF Project Agreement General Provisions found at [http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/forms/lwcf\\_general\\_provisions.frm.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/forms/lwcf_general_provisions.frm.pdf), and 2 CFR 200.

## **C. Eligibility Information**

1. Eligible Applicants: Each State has a lead agency designated by the State's Governor or by legislation for the purposes of implementing LWCF in that State and only the lead agencies can be applicants for LWCF grants. Consequently, only the State lead agencies are eligible to submit applications for LWCF ORLP grants, although they may do so on behalf of themselves or another entity via a sub-award. For the purposes of this competition "States" include only the 50 U.S. States plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands do not have any urbanized areas on the Census list). In turn,

eligible sub-awardees include local units of government (state political subdivisions such as cities, counties, and special purpose districts such as park districts), and federally-recognized Indian Tribes. Applications submitted directly to the NPS by entities other than the lead agency will automatically be rejected without consideration. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, and other private entities are not eligible as applicants or sub-awardees.

Further, for a project to be eligible the project's sponsor must:

- Represent a jurisdiction of at least 50,000 people, AND
- Be named as one of the 497 urbanized areas delineated by the Census Bureau OR be a jurisdiction that lies geographically within one of the delineated urbanized areas.

In addition, the project itself should be physically located within one of the 497 urbanized areas. Projects that are not located within an urbanized area boundary are not necessarily ineligible, but may not compete well unless the sponsor can make a compelling case for how the project will serve the target populations, recognizing that access and proximity factor in the scoring criteria.

A list of the 497 urbanized areas was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 18652-18669). The Census Bureau has published maps delineating each urbanized area, which can be found at <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010ua.html>.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: As required by the LWCF Act, LWCF ORLP grants must be matched at a minimum level ratio of 1:1 with non-Federal funds. Matching funds may be derived from state, local, non-governmental, or private sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. The competition will favor contributions of cash or land from non-public sources over other types and sources. Eligible costs, sources of match, and other cost-sharing requirements are detailed in Chapter 5 of the [LWCF Manual](#). The competition will also favor projects that involve partnerships among the public, private, and non-profit sectors that result in the leveraging of resources (e.g., money, donations of land, supplies, services, etc.) and the extent of that leverage that allows the *LWCF-eligible* costs included in the project budget to exceed the 1:1 match required by the LWCF Act.

The following costs may not be counted toward the non-Federal matching share (not inclusive):

- Any project costs incurred before the grant start date, unless they are an eligible pre-award cost as defined in the LWCF Manual or unless the sponsor gets prior approval from the State lead agency and the NPS (i.e., waiver of retroactivity).
- Any funds or in-kind contributions such as land or services that have been used previously or will be used in the future to satisfy the matching requirements of another LWCF grant or other Federal grant.
- Any funds or in-kind contributions such as lands or services that were or will be acquired with other Federal funds, unless otherwise provided by Federal law.

Funding that originated from Federal sources or the value of land or services acquired with Federal funds may not be used as non-Federal match unless their enabling legislation authorizes that treatment. The best known examples are HUD's Community Development Block Grants and DOT's Recreation Trails Program, but there may be others (project sponsors should be prepared to show supporting documentation if seeking to use Federal funds from other sources as match). Other than this exception, in accordance with 54 USC 200305(f)(1) projects seeking LWCF ORLP grants may not include funds from other Federal sources, including LWCF formula funds, in the project's budget, even if all programs' match requirements are met.

Prospective applicants should note limitations on certain kinds of costs, whether proposed for the grant, as match, or as overmatch, including those related to project management/administration, contingencies, and design/engineering fees. This is described further in the Budget Narrative component of Section of D.2 of this FOA. Further, project sponsors should be aware that the LWCF Act specifically excludes acquisition support costs from eligibility (see 54 USC 200305(e)(2)(A)) so such costs should not be requested for reimbursement from the ORLP grant or to meet the match within the 1:1 level.

3. Other: The process for a project sponsor to seek an LWCF ORLP grant will begin at the State level. Each State's lead agency for LWCF will be allowed to nominate up to two projects to the NPS for consideration in the national competition. The lead agency will be responsible for: further soliciting project proposals from other state agencies, local units of government, and federally-recognized Indian Tribes; conducting the initial review of proposals for completeness and eligibility requirements; evaluating and prioritizing proposals according to the competition criteria and the State's Open Project Selection Process; ensuring that proposals are consistent with outdoor recreation priorities outlined in the State's SCORP; and selecting the proposal(s) to be nominated. If a proposal is selected for funding in the national competition, the lead agency will also be responsible for submitting the final application to the NPS. Grants will be awarded to the lead agency, which will be responsible for ensuring that allocated funds are used for the purposes of and in a manner consistent with the LWCF. The lead agency will in turn make a sub-award to the project's sponsor, which must be the public entity that submitted the proposal. Project sponsors interested in seeking a grant must contact the lead agency to get specific details about the State's process for identifying projects for this competition. A list of agency contacts can be found at: [http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/contact\\_list.html](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/contact_list.html).

If a project is selected, the project cost estimate defines the maximum federal share that can be requested. In general, changes to the scope of the project after selection, particularly those that would result in an increase or decrease in costs, will be discouraged as they may materially alter the circumstances under which the project was evaluated and selected. A significant departure from the project's original proposed scope could result in the LWCF ORLP grant being withdrawn.

## **Narrative Outline**

Please follow this outline and be concise. There is not sufficient text space on the on line narrative form so type in “see hard copy attachment” and send in the attachment along with all the other required attachments by application due date (April 22, 2016 – 5 p.m.).

### **1. Project Overview**

For acquisition projects: provide a street address sufficient to provide at least a general location for the property, a description of the property, and an explanation of the need for its acquisition. Explain whether the acquisition would create a new public park or recreation area or is to expand an existing site. Describe and quantify the types of resources and features on the property (e.g., 50 acres of forested area, 2,000 feet of waterfront, scenic views, vacant lot, special habitats, unique or special features, recreation amenities, historic/cultural resources) as well as any constraints (e.g., existing development; hazardous materials/contamination history; and restrictions such as institutional controls, easements, rights-of-way, reversionary interests, above ground/underground utilities; etc.). Describe the plans for developing the property for recreation purposes after acquisition and the timeframe, including when the site is expected to be open and accessible for public use. Describe the current status of the acquisition, including negotiations with the landowner and development of due diligence materials such as title work and appraisal.

### **2. Improving physical and recreational access and addressing recreational deficiencies:**

Describe how the proposed project will create or significantly improve access to close-to-home park and recreation opportunities by expanding the quantity or quality of parks or other outdoor recreation areas. This can be through either: creating a new park/outdoor recreational area or significantly enhancing the quality of an existing park/outdoor recreation area by replacing or upgrading infrastructure to be able to provide high priority recreation services. Describe the new or expanded types of outdoor recreation opportunities and/or capacities that will be created as a result of the acquisition and/or development. Describe how the project meets an identified recreational need or deficiency.

### **3. Improving recreation service to priority target groups for this competition:**

Describe the activities and uses planned for the project site after acquisition and/or development. Describe who will benefit from the project, particularly with respect to the groups targeted by this competition (minorities, youth, and/or low to moderate income individuals or families) and for whom serious recreation deficiencies exist.

Sponsors are encouraged to include available data/statistics about the local populations to be served by the park/recreation area in the response. Census-defined minorities are African-Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Pacific Islanders.



#### 4. Project Engagement and Participation:

Describe the process that led to the development of this proposal. In particular, focus on efforts to engage the public, especially the local community that will be served by the park, and their participation in the project as well as that of other interested/affected entities. Describe any partnerships or other collaborative efforts, such as with neighborhood groups, community organizations, or private entities that have helped facilitate the project. Also, describe or provide evidence of local support for the project, particularly from local residents.

Supporting details could include how the public was notified of and provided opportunity to be involved in planning for and development of the project proposal; who has been involved (including local, state, and federal agency professionals; subject matter experts; and private organizations) and how were they able to help develop or review the proposal; and formal public participation processes such as meetings, hearings, and comment periods, including dates and length of time provided for the public to participate in the planning process and/or to provide comments.

#### 5. Innovation and Transformative Attributes:

Describe the extent to which the project encompasses or exhibits innovation, especially in ways that can be transformative for the neighborhood(s) and community in terms of revitalization. These qualities could be related to aspects such as: redevelopment of a blighted or distressed properties; involvement of new or non-traditional partners; unusual features in the project design; employment of novel solutions to issues in/challenges to addressing the community's recreation needs; the ability to affect or advance other complementary and intrinsic benefits beyond providing new or enhancing park or other outdoor recreation spaces; and other similar characteristics.

#### 6. Project's Alignment with SCORP and other applicable plans:

Describe how the project will advance, implement, or meet a priority need and/or goal of the applicable state's SCORP and other relevant park and recreation planning documents. Projects can also receive credit for aligning with or advancing priorities of other comprehensive or master plans at the city, regional, and/or state level such as community revitalization plans, economic development plans, open space plans, etc.; and/or benefitting other initiatives and programs.

#### 7. Project's Readiness:

Describe the status of the planning for the grant project and its readiness to be implemented. Provide a narrative description of the timeline for the planned scope of work and a proposed period of performance, including providing dates for discrete benchmarks of significant work elements that will support the grant project's implementation to completion.

Describe the current use (if any) or disposition of the property targeted for the project. If there are any existing non-outdoor recreation or other non-public uses that are intended to continue on the property on an interim or permanent basis and/or proposed in the future, these should be explained.

#### 8. Applicant and Partner Capacity:

Describe the project sponsor's experience in completing other similar park and recreation projects. If partners are or will be involved in the grant project's implementation, their role(s) should also be described. Describe who holds or will hold title to the property and how the park or recreation area will be managed and maintained to assure permanent use for public outdoor recreation. Describe the funding resources available to support the operation and maintenance. If partners will be involved with long-term management of the property, this should be described. Also describe the project sponsor's or partner's past experience, if any, with managing grant funds, particularly LWCF or other federal awards.